

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, MASS, GR, US

SUBJECT: US-GREEK DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT: PRESS
BRIEFING

1. FOLLOWING IS SEGMENT OF JULY 28 NOON BRIEFING RELATING
TO INITIALING OF US-GREEK DCA.

2. BEGIN TEXT: MR. CARTER: EARLIER TODAY IN ATHENS,
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES AND GREECE INITIALED
A NEW DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT WHICH MODERNIZES OUR
BILATERAL SECURITY RELATIONSHIP BY BRINGING UP TO DATE A
NUMBER OF OLDER MILITARY AGREEMENTS WITH GREECE, MANY OF
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THEM DATING BACK TO THE EARLY 1950'S.

THE NEW AGREEMENT WILL NOW BE SUBMITTED AD REFERENDUM TO
THE TWO GOVERNMENTS. NO DATE HAS YET BEEN SET FOR FORMAL
SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENT. A COMMUNIQUE AT THE COMPLE-
TION OF THE INITIALING OF THE AGREEMENT WAS ISSUED BY THE
GREEK GOVERNMENT IN ATHENS, AND IT'S AVAILABLE IN THE NEWS

OFFICE FOR THOSE WHO ARE INTERESTED. I ALSO HAVE IT HERE
IF ANYBODY'S --

Q: HODDING, ON THAT, IS THIS SOMETHING SEPARATE FROM THE
BASES NEGOTIATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN GOING ON?

A: THE DCA INCLUDES THE QUESTION OF OUR BASES IN GREECE.

Q: OK. AND THIS INCLUDES THE AID FACTORS THEN THAT HAVE
BEEN DISCUSSED?

A: LET ME --

Q: IS THIS ANY DIFFERENT IN SUBSTANCE FROM WHAT WAS
AGREED TO IN PRINCIPLE BACK HERE IN WASHINGTON LAST YEAR?

A: WELL, THESE NEGOTIATIONS BEGAN IN FEBRUARY OF '75.
THIS SET OF DOCUMENTS NOW COVERS ALL PROVISIONS OF A NEW
DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT. THE TEXTS INCLUDE ONE
BASIC DCA AGREEMENT AND SIX APPENDICES, FOUR OF WHICH DO
COVER THE MAJOR INSTALLATIONS THAT WE HAVE IN GREECE. THE
OTHER TWO APPENDICES RELATE TO COMMAND AND CONTROL AND
STATUS OF FORCES.

Q: DOES IT SAY ANYWHERE THAT THIS IS 700 MILLION DOLLARS
OVER FIVE YEARS?
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A: YES. IT'S FOUR YEARS, 700 MILLION DOLLARS.

Q: FOUR YEARS?

A: YES. PART OF THIS WILL BE GRANT AID.

Q: AND WHAT'S THE STATUS OF THE TURKISH DCA?

A: THE TURKISH SITUATION IS UNCHANGED -- THAT IS, THAT
THE ADMINISTRATION ENDORSES IN PRINCIPLE THE DEFENSE
COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND TURKEY
AND THAT AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME, IN LIGHT OF ALL THE
RELEVANT FACTORS, WILL ASK THE CONGRESS TO TAKE ACTION
ON THE AGREEMENT.

Q: WELL, NOW THAT THE GREEK THING IS READY TO GO FOR-
WARD, WILL THIS ADMINISTRATION NOW ASK THAT THE TURKISH
DCA GO FORWARD? REMEMBER, THERE WAS A FLAP IN THIS
TRANSITION PERIOD?

A: YES, I UNDERSTAND. I REALLY AM NOT PREPARED TO SPECU-

LATE ON WHEN THE TURKISH AGREEMENT WILL GO FORWARD. EACH OF THESE HAS TO STAND ON ITS OWN MERITS AND THE GREEK ONE IS IN FACT THE ONE -- WELL, AT THIS POINT -- WHICH IS GOING TO BE STUDIED HERE BEFORE BEING FORMALLY SIGNED; AND THEN THAT PROCESS WILL GO FORWARD

AS FAR AS THE TURKISH PART, I'M NOT PREPARED TO GO BEYOND WHAT I JUST SAID.

Q: AT THE TIME MR. NIMETZ TESTIFIED ON THE TURKISH AGREEMENT, THE CLEAR SIGNAL WAS THAT THE CIRCUMSTANCES HE WAS ALLUDING TO WAS PROGRESS ON CYPRUS. DOES WHAT YOU MEAN BY THAT STILL STAND?

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A: I'M NOT PREPARED TO SAY ANYTHING ON THE RECORD TO THAT END. I WOULD SAY ON BACKGROUND YES.

Q: BUT IS IT CONTEMPLATED THAT YOU MIGHT TRY TO HAVE THE GREEK AGREEMENT APPROVED WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THE TURKISH AGREEMENT?

A: I THINK I HAVE TO REPEAT HERE THAT EACH OF THESE IS GOING TO HAVE TO STAND ON ITS OWN MERITS.

Q: THAT WOULD SUGGEST THEN THAT THE ANSWER IS THAT IT COULD GO AHEAD BY ITSELF WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THE TURKISH AGREEMENT.

A: YES. WHAT I'M REALLY NOT PREPARED TO DO IS START SETTING DATES FOR THE FORMAL PROCEDURES WHICH WOULD BRING THE DCA WITH GREECE INTO EFFECT; AND, THEREFORE, ALL I CAN TELL YOU IS THAT THEY HAVE BEEN INITIALED, IT IS COMING BACK HERE FOR STUDY AND FOR FORMAL AGREEMENT, AND THEREAFTER WE WILL FOLLOW IT.

Q: BUT YOU SAY EACH STANDS ON ITS OWN MERITS --

A: YES.

Q: -- AND THAT WOULD MEAN THAT WE COULD GO AHEAD WITH THE GREEK ONE WITHOUT NECESSARILY GOING AHEAD WITH THE TURKISH ONE..

A: WELL, I THINK THE ASSUMPTION WOULD HAVE TO BE THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO ASSUME THAT STUDYING THESE DOCUMENTS LEADS TO THE SIGNATURE -- WHICH I BELIEVE THAT THEY WILL -- THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO GO FORWARD WITH THIS WITH
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GREECE.

Q: ISN'T THE DECISION TAKEN BECAUSE OF THE POLITICAL
UNCERTAINTY IN TURKEY, NOW THAT WE'VE DECIDED WE JUST
CAN'T WAIT ANY LONGER?

A: NO. I'M REALLY NOT PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE TURKISH

DCA. I THINK THAT, AGAIN, THAT QUESTION REMAINS THE SAME
-- THAT WE WILL SUBMIT THAT AT WHAT IS CONSIDERED AN
APPROPRIATE TIME.

Q: NO. MY QUESTION REALLY IS WHETHER WE'VE NOW DECIDED
THAT WE'VE GOT TO DE-LINK THEM BECAUSE WE SEE THE TURKS
ARE GOING TO BE MESSED UP INTERNALLY, POLITICALLY --

A: I--

Q: -- FOR SO LONG THAT WE CAN'T GO ON WAITING AT THE GREEK
ONE FOR THEM.

A: EXCUSE ME. I DO UNDERSTAND THE QUESTION. I'M NOT
REALLY PREPARED TO TRY TO SUGGEST WHY ONE GOES BEFORE THE
OTHER OR WHEN EACH WILL GO, AT THIS POINT.

Q: WELL, YOU JUST SUGGESTED THAT THE GREEK AGREEMENT IS
GOING TO GO UP BEFORE THE TURKISH AGREEMENT.

A: WELL, I SUGGEST THAT IT HAS CERTAINLY MOVED ALONG TO
A POINT RIGHT NOW AT WHICH YOU COULD LOGICALLY INFER THAT.
I WOULD NOT SAY THAT AUTOMATICALLY I CAN JUST TELL YOU
THAT THIS THING IS GOING TO GO BOUNCING FAR IN ADVANCE
OR WHEN IT WILL GO. THERE IS STILL WORK THAT HAS TO BE
DONE.

Q: ALL HELL IS GOING TO BREAK LOOSE IN TURKEY.

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A: THAT COMMENT THAT WAS JUST HEARD COMES FROM THE FRONT
ROW AND NOT FROM THE PODIUM. END TEXT.

3. FOLLOWING NOON BRIEFING DEPARTMENT RECEIVED A NUMBER
OF CALLS FROM THE PRESS WHICH INDICATED SOME LACK OF UNDER-
STANDING CONCERNING THE STATUS AND PROSPECTS OF CONGRES-

SIONAL ACTION ON BOTH THE GREEK AND TURKISH AGREEMENTS. POSTS MAY DRAW ON THE FOLLOWING WHICH WAS USED BY DEPARTMENT OFFICERS IN RESPONDING TO THESE INQUIRIES: NO DECISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE ON THE STRATEGY, TIMING, OR MECHANICS OF THE CONGRESSIONAL HANDLING OF BOTH DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENTS. WITH REGARD TO THE GREEK AGREEMENT, NO DATE HAS YET BEEN SET FOR FORMAL SIGNATURE AND IT IS THEREFORE PREMATURE TO DISCUSS THE CONGRESSIONAL ASPECTS OF THAT AGREEMENT AT THIS TIME. REGARDING THE TURKISH AGREEMENT, WHICH WAS CONCLUDED IN MARCH 1976 AND IS NOW PENDING BEFORE THE CONGRESS, THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN THE POSITION OF THE ADMINISTRATION. AS THE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN REITERATED TODAY, THE ADMINISTRATION ENDORSES, IN PRINCIPLE, THE TURKISH DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT AND

AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME, IN LIGHT OF ALL THE RELEVANT FACTORS, WILL ASK CONGRESS TO TAKE ACTION. VANCE

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